

Felix Grundy to Andrew Jackson, November 28, 1811, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

FELIX GRUNDY TO JACKSON.

Washington, November 28, 1811.

Dear Genl , It is now late at night and I have Just returned from a meeting of the Committee on our Foreign Relations, of which I am a member. If the opinion of that Committee is to prevail I may say The Rubicon is pass'd. With a full determination to report in favor of actual War, at a given period, we for the present, shall recommend, filling up the ranks of the present military establishment, which will make ten thousand; in addition we recommend, the raising ten thousand more regulars, also the acceptance of 50,000 Volunteers, detachments of the Militia etc. arming the Merchantmen etc. The above, I am authorised to say meets fully the approbation of the Executive, and indeed the cooperation of that department in ulterior measures was promised, before a Majority of the Committee could be brought to so mild a Course, and, sir, I must say that I as one member wanted a pledge as to the Application of the force before I could heartily Join in raising it, and still, I could not think of War until I saw something like the means provided. Rely, on one thing, we have War or Honorable peace before we adjourn or certain great personages have produced a state of things which will bring them down from their high places, If there be honest men enough to tell the truth loudly. On the business named in Yr letter you shall hear from me next week at present my account would not be satisfactory. The contents of this may be no secret, but it is not written for publication. I am yrs

P S, As to young men in my District who ought to be applied for as proper persons for Appointments in the Regular service, you know I am at a loss. Young [Mr. Parsons] lives

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with Elihu S Hall, I have forgotten the christian name of, let me know it. I beleive, John is the name of the Mr Reed who acts a Clerk in the Bank,¹ If wrong put this right—And give me any further informed in yr power.

¹ This seems to be that John Reid who was Jackson's most efficient aide de camp in 1813–1815. It is the first appearance of his name in the Jackson correspondence. See *post*, Maj. John Reid to Jackson, Dec. 11, 1812, note.